Pers 17-5

6 JUN 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Medical Staff

SUBJECT   : Civil Service Commission Standards for Disability
                    Retirement

1. Following our recent conversation concerning criteria used by
the Civil Service Commission in adjudicating applications for disability
retirement annuities, I discussed this matter with members of the Benefits
and Services Division of this Office. The following comments reflect the
information provided by that Division:

     a. Among the eligibility requirements which an employee
must meet for disability retirement, the Federal Personnel
Manual (R 5-38) provides that, "The disease or injury which
caused the disability must not be the result of vicious habits,
intemperance, or willful misconduct on his part within the
5-year period immediately prior to becoming disabled." This
standard is also expressed in item No. 111, page 13, of the
accompanying booklet, "Your Retirement System," issued by the
Civil Service Commission.

     b. With specific reference to situations of disablement
where intemperate drinking is involved, the Office of Personnel
has been informed by the Commission that the factor of alcohol-
ism does not per se disqualify the applicant for disability
annuity. Dr. Melvin Johnson, Deputy Director of the Bureau of
Retirement and Insurance of the Commission, has told us that if
his Bureau makes a finding that alcoholism is symptomatic of a
disabling emotional or mental disorder or if the applicant has
other disabling impairments independent of alcoholism, the
exclusion provision quoted in "a" above does not apply.

2. The records of the Office of Personnel indicate that there have
been at least three cases involving alcoholism approved by the Commission
for disability annuities, namely,

Executive Officer
Office of Personnel

Attachment: A/S

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                              (6 June 61)